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BRITISH COLUMBIA.

BY SHELDON JACKSON, D. D.
U. S. General Agent of Education in Alaska.

For over eight hundred miles British Columbia lies along the Pacific Ocean; but its coast line in and out the many bays, inlets, and channels, and around its numerous islands could measure as many thousand miles.

It possesses one of the most remarkable stretches of inland navigation on the globe, remarkable for its bold shores, deep water, numerous channels, innumerable bays and harbors, abundance of fuel and fresh water, and freedom from the perils of the ocean. The great outlying islands of Vancouver, 300 miles long, and Queen Charlotte, 170 miles long, and many lesser ones form nature's gigantic breakwater to protect these thousands of miles of inland waters. The labyrinth of channels, around and between the islands, that are in some places less than a quarter of a mile wide, and yet too deep to drop anchor; the mountains rising from the water's edge from one thousand to eight thousand feet and covered with dense forests of evergreens far up into the perpetual snow that crowns their summits; the frequent risk of the avalanche cutting a broad road from mountain to water's edge; the beautiful cascades born of glaciers, the overflow of high, inland lakes, pouring over mountain precipices or gliding like a silver ribbon down their flanks; the deep, gloomy sea-fjords cleaving the mountains into the interior; the beautiful kaleidoscopic vistas opening up among the innumerable islets; mountain-tops, rounded and sculptured by glaciers; the glaciers themselves sparkling and glistening in the sunlight, dropping down from the mountain-heights like great swollen rivers, filled with driftwood and ice and suddenly arrested in their flow,—all go to make up a scene of grandeur and beauty that cannot be adequately described. Happy are they who can see all this and more in the famous tourist trip to Alaska.

The marvelous combination of mountain and water scenery along the coast is equaled, if not excelled, by the wonderful heavings of the mountains of the interior,—for hundreds of miles an endless succession of sharp peaks and deep valleys,

of precipice and gorge and rocks, some of which are still being carved into strange forms by the great ice sheets which cover them.

Far up into these almost inaccessible mountains during the gold excitement the Government built a wagon road at the expense of two and a half million dollars. Into, over, and under these same mountains the Canadian Pacific Railroad finds its way to the Pacific Ocean. Seven thousand men were engaged three years in building sixty miles of railway along the Cañon of the Fraser. Some portions of the work cost \$300,000 to the mile.

In these gigantic mountains very appropriately are born gigantic rivers. From them flow the mighty Yukon, which thousands of miles away is steadily at work filling up Behring Sea; the Liard and the Peace after draining an empire, three thousand miles away, through the great Mackenzie, are lost in the Polar Sea; and the rushing, impetuous Fraser and the queenly Columbia.

British Columbia is rich in minerals. From 1858 to 1898 the gold production was \$51,455,668. From Nanaimo on Vancouver Island 153,000 tons of bituminous coal are annually shipped to San Francisco. The output for 1888 was over 400,000 tons.

On Taxada Island, twenty miles from the Comox coal fields, are great masses of magnetic iron, assaying 68.4 of iron and having a low percentage of phosphorus and other impurities. Copper exists in a number of places, the most promising ledge, so far found, being on Howe Sound. Salt springs also abound.

The mountains and coast are covered with dense forests of valuable timber. Eighty per cent of this is Douglas fir, ten per cent red cedar, and the balance yellow cedar, spruce, white and yellow pine, hemlock, maple, alder, and cottonwood. An experienced lumberman from Michigan, who has been examining the forests, says that he found a tract of 55,000 acres of white pine averaging 100,000 feet to the acre, and a large tract of red cedar covered with trees varying

from ten to twenty feet to the first timber standing. The chief seat of the Hastings has shipped a

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from ten to twelve feet in diameter, with trunks 150 to 200 feet to the first limb. He made a careful estimate of the timber standing on one acre and found it nearly 600,000 feet. The chief seat of the lumber interest is Burrard Bay, where the Hastings mill cuts 15,000,000 feet annually. This mill has shipped a timber 28 inches square and 110 feet long.

In the same neighborhood is the Moodyville saw-mill which cuts nearly 20,000,000 feet annually. Logs have been brought to this mill measuring over seven in diameter at the butt, and five feet in diameter 130 feet from the butt. The export of lumber for 1888 was \$235,913.

The rivers, bays, and inlets swarm with fish, among which are salmon, halibut, herring, oolachan, black and rock cod, sturgeon, flounder, smelt, trout, etc.

In 1887 there were twenty-one salmon canneries, which sent to the market 205,088 cases of four dozen one pound cans to the case. The total number of salmon caught, including those salted in barrels, was 1,804,600. The catch of sturgeon was 198,000 pounds, halibut 149,000 pounds, herring 65,000 pounds, oolachans 20,500 pounds, and trout 15,000 pounds. The salmon pack for 1888 was 177,305 cases.

In addition to the catch of food fish there were made 68,500 gallons of refined oil from the dog fish. There were also fur seal taken by British Columbia boats to the value of \$236,600.

While much of the land is rocky and unsuited to cultivation, there are valleys in the mountains and on the islands which have an arable soil suited to the production of the fruits, grains, vegetables, and flowers of the temperate zone. Victoria on the south end of Vancouver Island is noted for its beautiful flower gardens and abundance of choice fruit.

The climate stretching across a country over 700 miles north and south and from the coast 500 miles inland among the mountains is very different in different sections. In a general way, however, it may be said to be moist and mild on the islands and coast, and drier and colder in the interior. The coast region warmed by the Kuro Siwo, the great warm current of the Pacific Ocean, has a winter climate as mild as Virginia in the United States. The mild, invigorating, and delightful climate of Victoria makes a pleasant resort.

Being a comparatively new country and until the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway (November 1885) difficult of access, the white population is small—from 40,000 to 50,000. To these may be added 10,000 Chinese and 30,000 Indians.

The admirable school system provides that wherever there are fifteen children between six and sixteen years of age within a radius of a few miles, a school-house shall be built, the salary of a teacher provided, and all the incidental expenses. These expenses are paid directly from the provincial treasury. The annual school report of 1885-6 gives 87 school districts, and 4,471 pupils enrolled; 2,481½ average daily attendance, at a cost of \$79,527.56.

The Indians, as a rule, are industrious and self-sustaining. They are in demand at the lumber mills, salmon canneries and fisheries on the coast, and in herding cattle and horses in the interior. They are in all stages of advancement from barbarism upward, in proportion to the time they have been under the influence of the missionaries.

British Columbia unlike the other provinces of Canada does not recognize any native ownership in the soil, which they and their fathers for generations have occupied and claimed. The future of the race in British Columbia is darker than in any other section with which I am acquainted.

The leading denominations engaged in their evangelization are the Church of England, the Methodists, and Roman Catholics.

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The missions of the Roman Catholics are mainly in the villages on the west coast of Vancouver Island. They have contract schools with the Indian Bureau of Canada at Kyuquiat, Clayoquat, Hesquiaht, and St. Marys. Where they have attempted missions by the side of the Protestants they have failed of success.

The Church Missionary Society of London opened mission operations in British Columbia as early as 1857, when Mr. William Duncan arrived at Fort Simpson. This was the first mission to the natives of the North Pacific and proved a remarkable success. As in 1887, eight hundred of the converts of this mission sacrificed the property they had painfully acquired during the thirty years they were coming up from barbarism to a Christian civilization, abandoned their homes and went out empty handed to a new land for conscience sake, the attention of the Christian world has been called to them.

From Metla Kahtla as a center have sprung these six missions: at Kincolith, established in 1867, Messatt, 1876, Alert Bay, 1878, Hazelton, 1880, Kitwanga, 1882, Aiyanish, 1883, and Kitkatla, 1887. These stations in 1888 were provided with ten European missionaries including three laymen. They reported 237 native communicants, 97 baptisms, and 309 children in school.

The schools at Massett, Kincolith, and Alert Bay are assisted by the government. This North Pacific group of missions is in charge of Bishop John Ridley.

Mr. J. B. McCullagh at Aiyanish reports the following interesting case:

Agwilakha, a powerful Niska chief, was the principal leader of the heathen party on the Nass River. One morning last summer while Mr. McCullagh and his men were at work on the new mission buildings, they were startled by cries of distress proceeding from the forest. Soon Gwinpazqu, Agwilakha's boy, was seen running and crying out, "*Haiawa! haiawalth babi* (Alas! alas my father). My father lies on yonder mountain stricken with *lokqu* (hemorrhage). He has eaten nothing these eight days and is faint and dying. *Haiawa! haiawa!*"

A rescue party was immediately sent out and in a couple of days he was brought in apparently just alive. A bed was made for him in the school-house, restoratives applied and after hanging between life and death for three days, he commenced slowly to mend.

His first request upon gaining a little strength was that some leafy branches be placed around his bed and a few pictures of Scripture subjects that he had seen at the mission be hung upon them where he could see them. He then requested the people to pray for him. In faltering tones he expressed deep penitence for the past and desire to lead a new life if he should get well. "Death," said he, "overtook me on the mountain. It struck me low. My blood made red the snow for a long way, while crawling to my little hut on the stream. I remembered Shimoigiat lakhage (God). I besought him. 'O Shimoigiat,' I said, 'hold me up,' and he did. Four days and we found the little hut by the stream. My flesh was black. I knew it meant death. 'Wait my son,' I said to Pazqu, 'until my end has come, then hasten to your brother Muguiliksqu. Tell him where I lie, that he may come and take me away and bury me.' Two more days, I still breathed. Then I sent Pazqu to you and soon came the men and carried me on their shoulders. Blessed are they! 'I shall recover,' you say. Perhaps so; but Agwilakha is dead; he died on the mountain; with mine own eyes I saw him die; his old life ended there. Henceforth my life shall be like a thing lent to me; He who lent it shall own it. Great has been His

mercy to me; the heart of a child has come to me. My speech is finished."

Among the remarkable men in the Methodist missions on the North Pacific coast is the Rev. Thomas Crosby. In the spring of 1863 Mr. Crosby commenced teaching an Indian school at Nanaimo. In six months he was able to preach in the native language; in 1869 his field was visited by an extensive revival and hundreds among the Flathead Indians were brought to Christ. His great success attracted the attention of his denomination so that when a picked man was wanted to go to the tribes in the extreme north he was selected, and in the fall of 1874 he settled at Port Simpson on the edge of Alaska. He and his wife threw themselves so unreservedly into the work, that a strong and influential center has been built up at Port Simpson and twelve other mission districts have been formed covering many hundreds of miles of territory.

The annual report of 1886 mentions stations at Port Simpson; on the Fraser at Nicola, Nass, Port Essington, Skidegate, Kit-a-meet, Kit-wan-silh, Kit-lach-tamux, Bella Bella, Hy-hies, Wer-keeno, and Bella Coola.

At these stations were six white and five native male missionaries besides a number of white lady teachers. They report 1,102 native communicants. The schools at Port Simpson, Port Essington, Bella Bella, Nanaimo, and Tak-

alsap (Nass River) are subsidized by the government.

In addition to a home for girls at Port Simpson, Mr. Crosby has recently opened an Industrial training school for boys. While on the Nass River, Mr. Greene also opened an orphanage.

During the winter of '77 and '78 a revival came with great power at Port Simpson. Many flocked in from neighboring tribes, and upon the shores of the Nass where for ages had been heard the rattle and wild howling of the incantation of the medicine men, was heard for the first time the song of redeeming love. The Nass people wanted a missionary of their own and in response to their earnest entreaties Crosby secured the Rev. Alfred E. Greene. Upon his arrival at their lower village the whole population turned out to welcome him, rejoicing that the day was breaking upon the Nass people, after a long dark night. Flags were hoisted on trees and poles, and cannons fired to express the universal joy. An old chief as he leaned upon his cane said, "I am getting old, my body is getting weaker every day. I am obliged to have three legs to walk with now (referring to his cane). This tells me I shall soon die. I don't know what hour I shall be called away; I want to hear about the Gospel of God, and I want my children to be taught to read the Gospel Book; I want them to go in the new way; we are tired of the old fashion."

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